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Message Text

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21
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ERDA-05 OIC-02 FEA-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-03 EUR-12 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /105 W
---------- 041981
R 161911Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7252
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MX, US, EC
SUBJECT: OPANAL CONFERENCE OPENS: ECUADORIAN REP HARSHLY CRITICAL OF U.S.

1. SUBJECT CONFERENCE OPENED YESTERDAY WITH MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES FROM UN SECGEN WALDHEIM. OPANAL SECGEN HECTOR GROS ESPIELL, IN A MODERATE OPENING STATEMENT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER SUBSCRIPTION TO PROTOCOL TWO BY FRANCE AND PRC, LAMENTED FAILURE OF SOVIET UNION TO SUBSCRIBE TO PROTOCOL TWO AS WELL AS FAILURE OF U.S. AND FRANCE TO SUBSCRIBE TO PROTOCOL ONE. MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA MADE SAME POINTS IN SIMILAR MODERATE STATEMENT, ADDING THAT TREATY OF TLATELOLCO "NOT ONLY HAS A MILITARY MEANING BUT ALSO POLITICAL: TO DEMONSTRATE THE COLLECTIVE VOCATION OF LATIN AMERICA FOR PEACE..." RABASA INVITED THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE NOT YET RATIFIED THE TREATY TO DO SO.

2. COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, MRS. MARIA ELENA ORTIZ DE TERAN, WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE TO REPLACE JOSE MARTINEZ COBO, ECUADORIAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO. (OTHER ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED IN
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SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.)

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3. IN HIS FINAL SPEECH AS PRESIDENT OF OPANAL, AMB. MARTINEZ COBO, LIKE GROS AND RABASA, REGRETTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD NOT RESPONDED TO MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE TREATY. HOWEVER, MARTINEZ COBO RESERVED HIS HARSHEST CRITICISM FOR THE U.S. HE SAID INTER ALIA: "THOSE WHO HEARD IN THIS VERY HALL THE PROMISES MADE BY THE NEW MESSIAH OF PEACE TO THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE SURPRISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT SIGNED PROTOCOL ONE (OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO), BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT THE RELATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA WITH THE POWERFUL NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH, INSTEAD OF IMPROVING, HAVE DETERIORATED GRAVELY RECENTLY. THE DISCRIMINATION OF THE FOREIGN TRADE LAW AGAINST THE COUNTRIES THAT JOIN TOGETHER TO DEFEND THE JUST PRICE OF THEIR PRIMARY PRODUCTS, THE ECONOMIC THREATS AND SANCTIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH DESIRE THAT THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA BENEFIT THEIR PEOPLES, THE PERMANENTLY POSTPONED VISITS OF HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE SECRETARIAT (SIC - DEPARTMENT) OF STATE MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE REASONABLY TO HOPE THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON WILL ADHERE TO THIS INSTRUMENT, MAKING IT A DEMONSTRATION OF FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR PEOPLES; THEREFORE, PERHAPS THIS CONFERENCE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO WORLD OPINION THAT THE FACT THAT THE REGION'S ONLY NUCLEAR POWER HAD NOT SIGNED THE ABOVE PROTOCOL REPRESENTS A POSSIBLE DANGER TO CONTINENTAL PEACE AND SECURITY." (FOREGOING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION. EMBASSY POUCHING TEXT OF SPEECH TO ARA AND QUITO.) SINCE MARTINEZ COBO SPOKE AS OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE OPANAL CONFERENCE, HIS ATTACK WAS EVEN MORE OFFENSIVE.

4. FOLLOWING THE APRIL 15 INAUGURAL SESSION, MARTINEZ COBO SPOKE WITH REPORTERS. HE SAID THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA "HAVE WORSENED IN RECENT YEARS" AND HE ALLEGED THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT KEPT ITS PROMISES WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. HE FURTHER CRITICIZED THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER TO LATIN AMERICA: "THIS IS NOT THE BEST WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE LATIN AMERICAN REALITY. TO RUN THROUGH THREE COUNTRIES IN
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FOUR OR FIVE DAYS DOES NOT ALLOW ONE TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS. IN REALITY HIS VISIT WILL BE LIKE A DOCTOR'S CALL." HE ADDED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LA POLICY "FAILED OR AT LEAST DID NOT PRODUCE EFFECTIVE RESULTS." MARTINEZ COBO ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE "INFLUENCE OF GREAT ECONOMIC INTERESTS UPON U.S. CONGRESS."

5. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM THE ECUADORIAN SPEECH, THE

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INAUGURAL SESSION WAS IN KEEPING WITH PREVIOUS OPANAL CONFERENCES AND IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE CONTINUING SESSIONS WILL BE PRODUCTIVE AND NON-CONTENTIOUS. EMBASSY CANNOT BE CERTAIN WHETHER MARTINEZ COBO ACTED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OR TO WHAT EXTENT HE MAY HAVE DISCUSSED HIS SPEECH WITH OTHER LATINS. WE CANNOT ENTIRELY DISCOUNT ELEMENT OF PERSONAL PIQUE IN HIS ATTACK IN THAT HE APPROACHED EMBASSY SOMETIME AGO SEEKING USG FUNDS FOR A TRIP HE PROPOSED TO MAKE TO THE U.S. (DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO REQUEST WAS NEGATIVE.) JOVA

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